

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 39  
By West

A RESOLUTION to applaud Mrs. Gloria Keel Coles for being honored at the Star Spangled Salute, and for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have shown themselves to possess great generosity and a spirit of altruism; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding person is Gloria Keel Coles, who in March will be honored with the other members of the "Fabulous Five" at the Star Spangled Salute, for her exceptional business and community leadership, and for her dedication to the greater Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, the Star Spangled Salute is a fundraising event for the Donelson Station Senior Citizens Center; an affiliate of Senior Citizens, Inc., the Center is dedicated to serving persons 55 years of age and older, providing group and individual activities and services to support independent lifestyles and foster dignity and self-worth among senior citizens; and



WHEREAS, a native of Homewood, Mississippi, and the daughter of a Louisiana Gulf Oil worker, Mrs. Coles grew up in south Louisiana; she was selected as Miss Port Barre, representing the town in the Rice and Yambilee festivals; and

WHEREAS, having attended schools in Louisiana, Mrs. Coles moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where she matriculated at the Gilfoy School of Nursing at the Mississippi Baptist Hospital; and

WHEREAS, shortly after graduating from the School of Nursing in 1956, Mrs. Coles moved to Nashville; she accepted a position to work as an office nurse for Dr. Carl Gessler with the Donelson Clinic; and

WHEREAS, ever dedicated to continuing education, she also taught the clinical section of the Physician's Assistants program at the Nashville campus of the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Mrs. Coles joined the Donelson Hospital as Education Director, and was later promoted to the position of Marketing Director; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Coles was eventually named the Physician Services Coordinator, in which position her responsibilities included recruiting physicians for the Donelson Hospital and, later, Summit Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, she worked assiduously provide opportunities for the betterment of the medical staffs of these hospitals through continuing medical education programs; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Coles took her much deserved retirement from Summit Medical Center in 1999, though she remains actively involved in hospital affairs as a current member of the Institutional Review Board of TriStar Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her stellar work with medical centers in the greater Nashville area, Mrs. Coles has proven herself to be a valuable member of this community through her association with a number of civic groups, including the American Heart Association and the Pencil Project for DuPont High School; and



WHEREAS, she was a member of the Metro Nashville Airport Transportation and Noise Monitoring Committees, and served the Metro Disaster Planning Council as secretary from 1980 through 1989, and as chairman in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Coles has also served with great dedication on the Boards of such organizations as the American Cancer Society, Sales and Marketing Executives of Nashville, Senior Citizens, Inc., and the Donelson Business and Professional Women, for which she served as President for several terms; and

WHEREAS, her worthy efforts for the betterment of her community earned Mrs. Coles an appointment to the Board of Directors of the Cloverbottom Developmental Center by Governor Ned McWherter; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Coles is tirelessly committed to education and to instilling a sense of community involvement in our youth: she has served the Metro Nashville Schools' Vocational Education Advisory Committee and the Curriculum Committee for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Health Sciences School, was an Explorers Advisor and a member of the Advisory Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and was the program coordinator for the first graduating class of Leadership Donelson/Hermitage in 1999; and

WHEREAS, for her admirable and selfless work in service of her community, Mrs. Coles received the Nashville Woman of the Year Award from the Davidson County Business and Professional Women and the Community Service Award from Delta Kappa Gamma International in 1986, was named the Professional Business Woman of the Year by the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce in 1987, was again honored by the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce with the Anna Wiggs Memorial Award in 1998, and received the President's Special Award for Outstanding Continuous Service to the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Coles is an active member of the Lincoya Hills Baptist Church, which she serves with great devotion on the Board of Trustees; and



WHEREAS, in 1956 Mrs. Coles married Pinckney Keel, who is now deceased; in 1996, she married Dr. John Coles, and she is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with him and with her three children: Bill, a Professor of Astronomy at the University of Alabama; Susan, Vice President of the Andrews Agency Public Relations Firm; and Beverly, Professor of the Recording Industry at Middle Tennessee State University, and a freelance journalist; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Keel Coles epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and she should be duly recognized; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mrs. Coles for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mrs. Gloria Keel Coles for her continuous laudable service to the greater Nashville community and to the State of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.